DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 289 654 RC 016 519

AUTHOR Dreier, William H.
TITLE One Room School and the University Museum.
PUB DATE 87
NOTE 6p.; Prepared for the University of Northern Iowa Committee on Rural Education.
PUB TYPE Reports - Descriptive (141)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Educational History; Exhibits; Higher Education; *Museums; *One Teacher Schools; Primary Sources; Realia; *Rural Education; *Rural Schools; Small Schools; United States History; *Universities
IDENTIFIERS *Museum Collections

ABSTRACT

A questionnaire sent to organizations and programs in rural education was designed to identify institutions displaying early school artifacts. Responses were received from 19 of the 30 states surveyed. The study found 11 university or college museums that have a one-room school as part of their collection. In addition, state parks and county conservation groups in states like Iowa and Nebraska display many of these small buildings as museums. Perhaps, in the future, more former state normal schools, which prepared so many teachers for work in the one-room schools, will locate these historic learning settings on campus. (JHZ)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED289654

One Room School and The University Museum

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY
William H. Dreier
TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

By

William H. Dreier

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)
☐ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.
☑ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.
• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

1987

RC 016519

One Room School and The University Museum*

William H. Dreier

Every teacher knows the one room school is a rare item. Some high school studegts would say its a museum, like a great grandmother! A one room school (ORS) in operation might be found in isolated places of Nebraska, the Rocky Mountains, and Appalachian states, or as a private school home for a few children. This school and its backyard privy and front yard flag pole is most often seen these days in a Frontier Village, a 19th Century theme Park, or in an amusement park along with the one-horse shay and the village black smith.

Does not the one room school deserve a better place? Do colleges and universities with a rural education interest enrich the lives of their future teachers with the early artifacts of their profession? The historians tell us that to be strong people, able to solve the problems of today and plan the future, we must know (touch and see) our past. The college or university museum gives us collections of ancient fossils, rare birds, and early documents. Their diaramas of past national events help us see, touch, and often hear our past.

In the fall of 1986 the Committee on Rural Education at UNI became interested in this question. We talked to our Museum Director. He, too, was thinking about an ORS (I don't think that a one room school has a Latin name), and was interested in knowing if college and university museums were displaying early teaching artifacts.

The ERIC/Clearing House for Rural and Small Schools regularly publishes a directory of organizations and programs in rural education. These institutions became the population which received a questionnaire late in September. A

---

*Prepared in 1987 for the University of Northern Iowa Committee on Rural Education.

follow-up letter and second copy of the one page check sheet and reverse side five item open-ended questions was mailed again in November. Some organizations gave leads of museums with an ORS and these were also followed. The 26th return came in April, 1987. They were received from 19 of the 30 different states of the survey. This was a 63 percent response from the states. No information came from 11 states.

Institutions with early school artifacts were found in 11 states. The reports were not all complete, but the Common School with elementary grades was most usual, as was the 1860-1890 period for artifacts. The Smithsonian in Washington D.C., and the Newark Museum in New Jersey were the only two whose school items dated before 1830.

Most one room school museums are located in other than colleges or universities said the 10 states responding to this question. Iowa has 57 located in 55 of the 99 counties, and Nebraska has 17, mainly in state parks. Nebraska has 3 and Utah has 2 high school buildings as museums, and Nebraska, Nevada, and North Dakota have one or more K-12 grade school building museums.

The present University of Northern Iowa established a museum in its 14th year as the Iowa State Normal School. Currently, it is like most state universities and colleges without an ORS to display to students and visitors. The survey discovered no college or university museums unlike it.

However, in talking with members of the Committee on Rural Education, and others, four university museums with a one room school were located. A one room school, built in 1865, was relocated on the campus of the Shippensburg University, Pennsylvania, in 1965 by their alumni and friends. The Fort Hayes State Universit in western Kansas moved a stone one room school built in 1874 to its campus, a gift of the local Phi Delta Kappa chapter. In 1972, the Student

Education Association at Chadron State College in Nebraska moved a one room school building to the campus. While the one room school was originally painted white, in the renovation process it was given a red coat to match the literary concept of what an old-time rural school should look like.

The early teacher's college at Normal,Illinois, has a one room building called the Eyestone School which is part of the museum of the now Illinois State University.

Additional school museums are presented in America's Country Schools, by Andrew Gulliford printed in 1984 by the Preservation Press of Washington, D.C. In the final section, "Country School Preservations", museum schools are identified, some with pictures, and their restorations are described. Our total list includes eleven schools in ten states. The early sole purpose of nine institutions was the preparation of teachers--many instructing in the one room schools of their state.

State/City	Name of School	College or University
FL, Tampa	Old School House	University of Tampa
IL, Normal	Eyestone School	Illinois State University
KS, Emporia	One Room School	Emporia State University
KS, Hays	Plymouth School	Fort Hays State University
KY, Richmond	Granny Richardson Spring School	Eastern Kentucky University
MO, Maryville	Hickory Grove School	Northwest Missouri State College
NE, Chadron	One-Room School	Chadron Sate College
OH, Bowling Green	District No. 6 School	Bowling Green State University
PA, Shippensburg	Mount Jackson or Potato Point School	Shippensburg University
TX, Lubbock	Bairfield School, Ranching Heritage Center	Texas Tech University
WV, Fairmont	Snodgrass School	Fairmont State College

This study found eleven museums on university or college campuses which have a one room school as part of the collection. In addition, state parks and county conservation groups in states like Iowa and Nebraska display many of these small buildings as museums. Perhaps, in the future, more former state normal schools which prepared so many teachers for work in the one room schools, will locate these historic learning settings on campus.

SOURCES

1. Gulliford, Andrew. America's Country Schools. Country School Preservation. The Preservation Press, Washington, D.C.; pp. 231-266, 1984.
2. Patton, Judith. "There is More than Meets the Eye in State College-University Change". The Patriot. Harrisburg, PA; p. D3, August 8, 1983.
3. "Plymouth Stone Schoolhouse." Sights to See, Fort Hayes State University pamphlet, Fort Hayes State University, Fort Hayes, Kansas. (not dated)
4. Rios, Betty Rose O. (compiler). Rural Education: A Directory of Organizations and Programs in Rural Education. ERIC/CRESS and Rural Education Association, March 1986.
5. Theiss, H. Jeannett. "Little Red School House In Chadron, Nebraska, Museum". Rural Education News; p. 4, July, 1974.
6. Wright, David Sands. Fifty Years at the Teachers College. Iowa State Teachers College, Cedar Falls, IA., p. 153, 1926.